IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2-4 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, and 16 as follows. All claims in the application are being reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

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1. (Currently Amended) An image heating apparatus comprising:

a flexible rotatable member contactable to a recording material carrying an image;

a back-up member disposed in said rotatable member;

a pressure roller for forming with said back-up member a nip portion with said rotatable member therebetween, said nip being effective to feed the recording material; and

a limiting member for limiting movement of said rotatable member in a direction of a generating line of said rotatable member,

wherein said limiting member is provided with a surface opposed to an outer peripheral surface of an end portion of said rotatable member, and

wherein when the nip portion is formed, said rotatable member is flexed, and the outer peripheral surface of said rotatable member includes a surface portion which is in contact to the opposed surface of said limiting member and a surface portion which is out of contact from the opposed surface of said limiting member, when the nip portion is formed.

2. (Cancelled)

[3. (Cancelled)]

[4. (Cancelled)]

Sub B'

2/5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein said limiting member rotates with said rotatable member by friction at the surface portion which is in contact to the opposed surface of said limiting member.

914 Cont'd

3/6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein when said rotatable member and said pressure roller are spaced from each other, a diameter of a surface opposed to the peripheral surface of said limiting member is larger than a diameter of the peripheral surface of said rotatable member.

4/7. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 3/6, wherein an outer diameter a of said rotatable member, and a difference δt between a diameter of a surface of said limiting member opposed to the peripheral surface of said limiting member and a diameter of the peripheral surface of said rotatable member, satisfy 0.009 is equal to or smaller than δt/a which is equal to or smaller than 0.03.

5/8. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 4/7, wherein δt is 0.3 mm-1.0 mm.

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6 ~~9~~. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said limiting member ~~father~~ further includes a second surface for receiving an end surface of said rotatable member, and an angle formed between the surface opposed to the outer peripheral surface and the second surface is larger than 90 degrees.

Sub B1

7 ~~10~~. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim ~~2~~ 1, further comprising a holder for rotatably holding said limiting member.

Q14 cont'd

8 ~~11~~. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 7 ~~10~~, wherein said holder is effective to limit movement of said limiting member in the direction of the generating line.

9 ~~12~~. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 7 ~~10~~, further comprising a guiding member for guiding said rotatable member inside said rotatable member, wherein said holder is directly or indirectly fixed to ~~send~~ said guiding member.

10 ~~13~~. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said limiting member is made of heat-resistive resin material.

11 ~~14~~. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said rotatable member has a metal layer.

A

12
15. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 14, further comprising a coil for generating a magnetic field for inducing eddy currents in said metal layer, wherein the image on the recording material is heated by heat from said metal layer in which heat is produced by the eddy currents.

13
16. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said back-up member includes ~~further comprising~~ a heater contacted to an inner peripheral surface of said rotatable member, wherein and the image on the recording material is heated by heat from said heater through said rotatable member.